PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar, I am very pleased indeed to hear you make a kind allusion to Mr. Gnana Joshua who lately passed away from among us. There is not a member of this House who has not felt, and that profoundly, the strength of his earnestness, the completeness of his sympathy and his ungrudging whole-heartedness to the cause he advocated, and, I am sure, his efforts did not begin and end with the community he represented. The example of such a life as that extends far beyond the confines of the community to which it was primarily devoted. Therefore, I reciprocate your sentiments entirely and I hope the family of the late Mr. Gnana Joshua will accept this expression of sympathy with them in their bereavement. Mr. Gnana Joshua was a member of this Council when he was called away.

I do not think it will be inappropriate for me to make an allusion also to another devoted member of this Council who was called to his rest a few days ago. It is true that he was not a member of this Council when that sad event occurred, but he had been a member of this Council for years before. I refer to the late Mr. Hoogewerf. He too was an earnest soul and he too was devoted to all causes that helped on humanity. Even if he was the fighter of lost causes sometimes, that is all the more to his credit. So I ask you also to register your feelings of sympathy with his family too in their loss.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12* —

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Reduction of Expenditure on the Agricultural Department.

163. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): With a view to make the amount now spent on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries productive of more benefit to the people, will the Government be pleased to reduce the expenditure on the appointment of experts in that department by 50 per cent. as opportunities occur, and utilise the proceeds for reducing the land tax, especially in areas where crops have deteriorated owing to the attacks of disease or for want of protective or productive irrigation works, and the taxes on fisheries?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government consider the reduction of expenditure on the appointment of experts in the Agricultural Department and the application of any such saving to the reduction of land tax, as proposed, to be neither feasible nor desirable.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they consider that the present expenditure on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is productive of adequate benefit to the agricultural population and the fishing population ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It is productive of great benefit. But it is not clear what he means by adequate benefit.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Adequate to the expenditure incurred. Has it in any way improved the lot of the people ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It has improved the lot considerably.

Reduction of Expenditure on the Public Works Department.

164. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : With a view to make the amount now spent on the Public Works Department productive of more benefit to the people, will the Government be pleased to reduce the expenditure on the appointments of Engineers, Officers and their establishments in the Public Works Department by 50 per cent. and utilise the proceeds for organising and making grants to non-official agencies for the construction and supervision of works of public utility, such as roads, irrigation channels, etc. ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The answer to question No. 163 applies also to this, *mutatis mutandis*.

Unsatisfactory Detection of Crimes by Police.

165. **MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*) : (*a*) Are the Government aware of the steady fall in the percentage of successful detection of crimes and recovery of stolen property by the Police authorities ; and

(*b*) if so, will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take to improve the situation ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) To judge the work of the Police, merely by statistics of successful detection of crimes and recovery of stolen property, is likely to have a demoralising effect, and in the interests of honest working in the department, a high percentage has not been demanded. Government see no reason for a reversal of this policy. They have, however, asked the Commissioner of Police to pay due attention to the quality of work

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